

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12206 031759Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9885
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, GW
SUBJECT: CIVAIR-FRANKFURT CARGO TERMINAL PROBLEM

REF: STATE 154631

1. SUMMARY: A MEETING WAS HELD IN FRANKFURT JUNE 29 BETWEEN THE AFFECTED US AIRLINES, FRG, LOCAL CUSTOMS AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS. AN EMBASSY REP ATTENDED THE SESSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IS TO BE WORKED OUT LOCALLY, AT THE LATEST, BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER AVIATION TALKS IN BONN.

2. IN KEEPING WITH THE FRG DELEGATION'S PROMISES DURING JUNE CONSULTATIONS, SENIOR AVIATION OFFICIAL HESSE (FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT) INVITED TO AND CHAIRED THE MEETING AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT ON JUNE 29. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY REPS OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THE CUSTOMS CHIEF OF THE STATE OF HESSE, DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS SERVICES, FRANKFURT AIRPORT, AND OFFICERS OF THE FRANKFURT AIRPORT COMPANY (FAG). PAN AMERICAN (PAA) AND SEABOARD (SWA) WERE REPRESENTED BY VP SHELNUTT AND STEVENS AND LOCAL AIRLINE MANAGERS. HESSE NOTED THAT THE GERMAN SIDE WOULD EXHAUST ALL
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POSSIBILITIES TO FACILITATE THE CARGO OPERATIONS OF THE US CARRIERS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL STAGE UNTIL FINAL QUARTERS ARE READY AND OPERATIONAL. IT WAS AGREED THAT FAG, CUSTOMS AND US AIRLINES WOULD WORK OUT A SOLUTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. FAG WILL CONVENE A MEETING OF THESE PARTIES AT AN EARLY DATE TO ASSURE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE

GOVERNMENTS AT THE LATEST BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

3. IN A FINAL STATEMENT, US CARRIER REPS ACCEPTED THE FRG SUGGESTION TO MOVE THE DISCUSSION BACK TO THE LOCAL LEVEL. THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FRANK DISCUSSION AND THE ASSURANCES TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF CARGO HANDLING, BOTH DURING A TRANSITIONAL PHASE AND LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS. THEY REITERATED THE PRINCIPLE OF AN EQUALLY COMPETITIVE BASIS FOR CARRIERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK AND FRANKFURT AS IT APPLIES TO THIS SITUATION. THEY UNDERLINED THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE STATUS QUO WOULD BE RETAINED UNTIL AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IS FOUND. THE PAA REP EXPRESSLY RESERVED THE RIGHT TO BRING UP THE MATTER AGAIN AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL AND HESSE ASSURED HIM THAT THE USG RIGHT TO DO SO WAS NEVER IN DISPUTE.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL US CARRIER REPS AND MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS.

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